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The Saturday Press.

(For the Saturday Press.)

THE SHADOW ON THE WALL.

I passed her way as the dying day
Was trembling to its fall,
Humming a song as I strolled along,
When a shadow on the wall,
A shadow dark and tall,
A shadow on her chamber-wall,
Silenced my step and song.

Like a spectral maid, or an aspen shade,
That shadow dark and tall,
Reluctant strayed as the moon-beams played
Upon the chamber-wall;
That shadow like a pall,
Trembling upon the chamber-wall,
Trembling as if afraid.

That seraph-shade which trembling strayed
Upon the chamber-wall,
Like a timid maid who stays afraid
Within a haunted hall,
That shadow dark and tall,
Quivering upon the chamber-wall,
Was my sweet Adelaide.

* * * * * *

The evening sped, and the angels fled
With the beauteous form and all,
And humming a song I strolled along,
When that shadow on the wall,
That shadow like a pall,
That shadow on her chamber-wall,
Haunted my step and song.

And now each night, when the moon beams bright,
Or the star-beams softly fall,
Her angel-shade, no more afraid,
Dances upon the wall,
Her shadow dark and tall,
Dances upon my chamber-wall,
Dances, no more afraid.

That joyous air, that face so rare,
The beauteous form and all,
The golden hair now glittering there
With the moonbeams, on the wall,
That shadow dark and tall,
Dancing upon my chamber-wall,—
Nought but herself so fair!

Yes, beauteous maid, sweet Adelaide!
Thy shadow on the wall,
Like a sylvan maid, or a seraph-shade
At a merry moonlight ball,
Thy shadow dark and tall,
Dances upon my chamber-wall,
Dances, though thou art dead!

THE LIVING CORPSE.

BY WILLIAM NORTH.

Why the fancy has seized me to write the strange history which follows, is to me inexplicable. My utter indifference to human sympathy, human praise, or human opinion, which will soon be seen to be no vain affectation, would seem to render such art superfluous. Perhaps the necessity for some species of action, which even the inert granite is supposed to be imbued with by the progressive spirit of Nature, may account for the proceeding. Since, however, I intend to write, I propose to write intelligibly. It is difficult to describe sensations where memory alone must furnish their corresponding ideas. Were I a human being, in the strict sense of the word, I should, if I may judge by what I see others do, apologize for the imperfection of my narrative. As it is, I shall reproduce the images of the past with the fidelity, as also with the indifference, of an echo. It is perhaps the first time that a Dead Man has spoken in the language of the living, though approximations to the phenomenon are to be found in many writers of the day, whose works, I, being absolutely destitude of passions, can alone dispassionately criticise. Weak minds will either fail to comprehend, or recoil with horror from my revelations. To the thinking few, they will be a curiosity, which I affirm gravely to be unparalleled in the annals of literature, or the records of history.

I was not always a living corpse. I am not a natural monster. I was born alive, in the full sense of the word. Nay, I was the result of an unbridled passion, and gifted with all the fiery vitality which such lawless indulgences not unfrequently produce. My mother was an Italian Princess, my father a private soldier in the Prussian cavalry. My birth took place in secrecy, and with all the precautions of pride and shameful terror. I was brought up in an atmosphere of mystery, and though invisibly protected, was, from my earliest recollection, an utterly isolated being. At the age of one-and-twenty, after completing, as they say, my studies at the University of ———, I was placed in possession of a fortune of one hundred thousand dollars invested in the English funds, and informed that henceforth I was my own master; whilst I was supplied with a plain and probable legend to serve as a convenient substitute for a more authentic pedigree. It was under these circumstances that I set out on my travels, in the prime of youth and love of enjoyment. My form was tall and powerful, my face of a rare and marked beauty, and my talents of that order which make the great heroes, poets, and criminals of this imperfect world. My destiny was in my own hands, and I became, if not the greatest, at least the most extraordinary of earth's children. To state these facts in their naked simplicity, because what is termed vanity, is so utterly impossible to a being of my unique nature, that I can waive all common forms, and introduce myself at once in my true colors to the reader.

I shall commence by a brief account of my youth and education, or rather of the early movements of my mind, which led me to adopt a course so singular in its audacity, both of conception and execution.

My two dominant passions, before the extraordinary events which it is the main purpose of this tale to record, were an intense longing for exalted sensations of pleasure, and as a means to this end, a burning thirst for knowledge. Having renounced all religious creeds, and set at defiance all social [illegible], I resolved to make the aim of my [illegible]

study and experiment, of the most certain methods of scientific enjoyment.

It was naturally what the world calls pre-eminently selfish; as if one man could be more or less selfish than another; as, if in obeying the laws of his organization, any one could act other wise than yield invariably to the strongest motive, as if any motive could be aught else than a certain amount of *force* acting upon an individual being!

But I will not philosophize. My human and living readers would not understand me if I did. Their perceptions are clogged by passions and prejudices. Hence truth is strange to them, and even terrible. There are some few, eagle-eyed, who can gaze upon the sun, undazzled. To these my philosophy would be impertinent; to the mass it is incomprehensible.

I will tell my story without obscurity. I will use the plainest language, and speak to popular acceptations.

I was, then, a voluptuary, but not a common voluptuary. I saw that the ordinary mines of enjoyment were soon exhausted, or only to be worked more deeply by labor that defeated its object. I perceived that the most crowded paths of pleasure turned back, by circuitous courses, in never-ending circles.

I resolved to abandon these pastures of gregarious man. But before abandoning them, I tested them by experience. I plunged into all the dissipations of my age. I sought all the distractions that youth, a strong well-nerved body, and an active mind could hope to obtain. I bought all the diversion that gold could buy. I lived with my generation; I surpassed them; I led them. I practised systematized moderation. I essayed unbridled excesses. And—I was disappointed.

I did not, as the cant phrase goes, awake from my illusions. I had read, seen, and thought too much. I was too clear-headed to have any illusions. Where others saw misty prospects, I saw naked facts. I summed up, and found the balance on the wrong side. My experiment was a failure.

I had travelled, I had seen the wonders of art, and the beauties of nature. I had had access to the best, and the worst of society. I had labored, and been rewarded by fame. The book which I wrote, won the applause of a nation. I foresaw that it would obtain new triumphs in foreign lands; and my foresight has been confirmed by fact. Lastly, I was united to the woman I loved; who brought me thrice the fortune I expected, and a mind cultivated beyond my hopes. And with all this—I was dissatisfied. I craved for intenser pleasure; more exalted excitement, and I could not disguise from myself that it was so. I reflected deeply.

"What," said I, "is happiness? Is it a monotony of sensations, which are taken to be pleasurable on the faith of popular opinion, whilst the inward voice still whispers languor and tedium, whilst half the day is passed in a dreary vacuity of mind, which is, at best, merely the bare negative of pain? Is it a feverish working and striving for objects which on attainment invariably become insipid and indifferent?

"Certainly not. Reasonably regarded, it is surely a positive, appreciable state of consciousness, in which we can say without hesitation to the moment, in the words of Goethe, 'O linger yet, thou art so fair!' It is a certain condition of the nervous system, and without that condition—misery."

I fell to watching myself studiously at different times, and under various circumstances.

I observed that, at a certain stage, wine produced sensations of extreme delight. But I also observed that these sensations soon gave way to other and more sombre feelings; that, in fact, there was a happy crisis in alcoholic stimulus, which, when once past, could not be recalled on one and the same occasion. Indulgence, too, in wine, was, I perceived, followed by a vague dreary despondency, that lasted incomparably longer than the brief passing moments of delicious exhilaration it produced.

On the whole, it was better to leave the mind to nature and mere mental excitements, than to attempt to light the sacred fire at the now neglected altars of Bacchus.

I need not say, that to become vulgarly intoxicated, was, with me, out of the question. There are some strong brains that defy the utmost possibilities of wine. I could have poisoned myself, but I could not render myself an unreasoning animal, by any amount of spirituous liquors. Often I persevered to the last, and when all my wild companions had sunk, I may say in many cases fallen beneath their potent draughts, I alone sat erect, and at worst discovered that my stomach was a weaker organ than my head. In such cases a feeling of awful and gloomy sadness would possess me, and after sitting long in silent and strangely lucid meditations, I would walk home calmly in the gray of the morning with little outward indication of the debauch from which I had emerged.

It was evident that no cascades of wine—even though they beggared Niagara in their ruby or topaz-like curves—could circumscribe for me that enchanted palace, in which I desired to spend my days, and defy the adversary—Pain, Evil, Devil, Typhon, Ariman, or Sathanas, in a word, the dread foe, named or nameless, described or indescribable, of human happiness and its continuance.

Apart from all more palpable causes of suffering, man sits between Memory and Desire, between the Past and the Future, as between two rival mistresses, each dragging him toward her by force with [illegible] position; whilst [illegible] him, and in many instances on the shortest [illegible]

can bless him with her love, the only goddess he can really and truly possess, if indeed he can possess anything, the divine Present—and he—dares not clasp the radiant virgin to his heart, dares not drive to the East nor to the West, along the interminable roads of space, the furies that torment him, madden him, and devour him, now, then, and evermore!

For my part, I said to the sad and pale brunette, the angel Preterita, and to the blonde seductive blue-eyed spirit Futura, a like farewell. The genii of Past and Future ruled the race of man—the Earth-God. But one was a rebel and an outlaw; and that one was I.

I said to the Universe, "Let me *feel* happiness, not merely dream it." And everlasting echoes from all the depths of Kosmos, even from the farthest bounds where creation, ever encroaching, borders upon awful chaos, everlasting echoes answered "DREAM!"

And I replied to the spirits of the Infinite, and demanded proudly, "Ye blind legions of monitors! where in nature is your unclouded happiness? where is your *perfection?*"

And the echoes laughed back in mockery, "*perfection!*"

Then I ceased to ask counsel of my men or spirits. For I was determined to be my own guide, and my own teacher, since all the wisdom of the world had not led to happiness. Therefore I scorned its pretensions, and derided its impotence with justice.

I became a great smoker. I purchased the rarest tobaccos and the costliest pipes. I had a perfect museum of meerschaums, narguls, chibouques, and tubes and bowls of all sorts of shape, size, and contrivance, for the inhalation of the fragrant weed. I purchased, at extravagant prices, the choicest boxes of cigars. I smoked grandly, incessantly, infernally. The atmosphere grew dark with my smoking; at least to my imagination. I wrapped my soul in the incense of tobacco. I created worlds of fancies out of its wreathing vapors. I began to think I had found the resource I wanted, and I often exclaimed in dreamy ecstacy—"Divine Nicotiana!"* I doubted whether the vapors which inspired the Pythoness did not arise from the hookahs of the priests smoking in solemn divan in the subterranean halls of Delphi. And I gave them high credit for having so well preserved the secret they had discovered.

At the same time, like a true Turk, I took care to have the finest coffee of Mocha prepared by the most perfect machinery. I found that, after fasting, the effect of coffee upon the nerves was almost supernatural; but combined with tobacco, it was Elysian. It produced an intense state of enjoyment, during which, I would discourse with a marvellous eloquence to my adoring Mira, who was never weary of following the train of my prolific and far-stretching fantasies. How easily in this period of my madness (as I have since learned to deem it), did I unravel knots in science and philosophy, that puzzled the wise men of ages. How intuitively did I seize on combinations, whose results, in the hands of practical men, might have rendered them the acknowledged benefactors of the world, and enriched whole nations of workers! But with me, all was a reverie of selfish recreation. I created glorious plans, I foreshadowed mighty inventions, as a voluptuous exercise of the mind; I played as it were grand symphonies on the most intellectual themes, and the compositions perished with the dying sounds, like the fantasias of musicians, which are never to be repeated.

But this could not last. My powerful organization resisted for a time the exaggerated abuse of drugs, which, common though they be, are in excess, like all other substances, the deadliest poisons. Smoking destroys the appetite, and ruins the digestive powers. Its effect upon the nerves then becomes tremendous. I soon made this discovery. A neuralgic irritation attacked me, which, as I still pursued my diabolical fumigations, went on with a fearfully *crescendo* movement. Deadly sickness, of a peculiar insective character; fits of the horrors, in which all things became repugnant, wearisome, and nauseating; ideas of suicide, and awful despondencies, descended upon me like a flight of vultures on a dying antelope. I abandoned the poisons. My prostration was complete and unbearable. I partially resumed them, and tried change of air and scene. I just recovered sufficiently to be able to suffer more acutely. I had evidently, at least temporarily, undermined my constitution. It was at this period, that, like a demon watching his occasion, opium became my comforter.

For the first time a book fell into my hands, a dangerous book, which has made many wretched: I mean "The Confessions of an English Opium-Eater." This work, as all the world knows, was written by Thomas de Quincey, an Englishman of letters, who is still living. And with regard to this De Quincey, I will mention one thing that is curious. He is intimately persuaded that he is a fragmentary poet, imbued with considerable transcendentalism. His book is extremely amusing, but the reverse of philosophical, for it arrives at no conclusion. It is an opium book in more senses than the writer would have you believe. Such as it is, however, this book was the immediate cause of my taking to opium.

Its first effects were delightful. It tranquillized my irritated nerves, and I entered, as it were, a new world of dreamy speculation. An invisible barrier seemed raised between me and the external world. Nothing troubled me, nothing annoyed me. I was on the verge of being entirely reconciled by a digression on the title of my whole property. But it gave [illegible]

no [illegible]
came—like [illegible]
that slight [illegible]
of indolent [illegible]
wife. She [illegible]
shocking [illegible]
reconciled [illegible]
induce her, [illegible]
liquid—[illegible]
apidly turn[illegible]

The [illegible]
forcibly dr[illegible]
that writer, [illegible]
to state th[illegible]
visions were [illegible]
nights. Th[illegible]
ges were fa[illegible]
extended b[illegible]
an opium-ea[illegible]
me, and th[illegible]
tedious. I [illegible]
taste of [illegible]
creased [illegible]
turned [illegible]
poisonous [illegible]
and cabal[illegible]
brown, [illegible]
Haschisch. [illegible]
(Cannabis [illegible]). The liquid in the vial was an extract [illegible] its stalks. This Indian poison is mentioned [illegible] Lamartine's Vision of the Future, and in Al[illegible] Dumas' Monte-Cristo. Their exaggerated [illegible] apparently exaggerated descriptions [illegible] effects have, no doubt, caused the majority [illegible] their readers to consider this marvellous [illegible] as a mere figment of the poet and novelist's [illegible]. It has, however, a real existence, and is in extensive demand amongst the initiated. In effect it resembles opium, but is more exhilarating, and less narcotic. I continued for a whole year to increase my doses of this new elixir of happiness, and did not find myself assailed by any of the horrible fancies which De Quincey complains of, as the after results of opium. Like King Mithridates, I was becoming familiar with poisons, and they began to respect their master. But, though I lived as much in another world from that of ordinary mortals, as if my habitation had been in the planet Uranus, I could not escape a more terrible poison than even the hydrocyanic, commonly called Prussic acid, in which, as an antidote to certain effects of the Cannabis Indica, I freely indulged. Ennui, the most [illegible] mysterious and tyrannical malady, [illegible] even into my poison-guarded dream-world. I grew accustomed to the life; the old dreary [illegible] fancies recurred, and became tiresome. [illegible] I meditated a deeper plunge in Fantasia, accidentally, in some review, with an account of the *Arsenic-eaters* of Styria, and of the results of that mania, in heightening the personal beauty of its devotees. Certainly the pure delicacy of Mira's clear, fair complexion, left no room for improvement, except in the fancy of a madman. Nevertheless, I long'd to try the effect of an arsenic varnish—if I may express myself—upon both her and my own countenance. Who could tell whether seeming more beautiful to one another, our love might not acquire new strength, and develope new sources of delight. I was in the midst of a profound reverie, or rather Haschisch dream on this subject, when I received a letter from a scientific friend, announcing the discovery of the effects of inhaling *ether*, in destroying sensation, and rendering surgical operations painless.

I thought that new light burst upon my soul. In one instant, I became a convert to an entirely new system of nervous influence. I rushed out to buy some *rectified sulphuric ether*, and a machine for inhalation. The latter consisted of a bottle, to which was attached a flexible tube, about two feet long, and two inches in diameter. I eagerly poured in some ether, and applied the funnel-like mouth-piece to my lips. After a few inspirations of the vaporized ether, I felt a most marvellous and delicious effect. I felt a stream of joyous expansion steal rapidly through my veins, even to the tips of my toes, which tingled with delight. I at once felt the vast superiority of inhaling the stimulant over swallowing it. Instead of going through the tedious process of digestion, whose functions is disturbed and impeded, as in the case of wine, the purified and refined spirit (for ether is but rectified alcohol) entered at once into the lungs, thence into the aerated blood, and thus through every part of the body, with the crimson flood of impatient arteries, and so back with the blue current of the veins, to evaporate harmlessly, leaving nothing but its memory behind it!

"Heaven!" I exclaimed, "wine, coffee, tobacco, opium, hasheesh! away henbane, aconite, hydrocyanic! Coarse and serious stimulants, narcotics, and nerve-twisters, who wrap the soul in cumbrous veils, that, like the robe of Dejanira, torment the life of your votaries. I am no De Quincey, I, to mock myself with vain, half-real fantasies, to stand up to the middle in Styx, and murmur vaguely—*Suspiria de profundis!*"

And now a new field opened to my researches. The world of gas spread temptingly before me. I felt as the man must understand the import of that word—to those the emblem of emptiness. "It is all gas!" they cry. Yes, truly, every thing is gas, is, was, and ever shall be gas. The most solid and material things resolve themselves into mere gaseous combinations. A little more of one gas, a little less of another, and all the [illegible] All was gaseous [illegible]

the [illegible] which in my youth I had witnessed of the effects of laughing gas, the inhalation of which causes the wildest gesticulation, or raptest exaltation of the brain, and amuses those who breathe it to exhibit the most fantastic feats, illustrative of their predominant passions. If there is truth in wine, in gas there is revelation. Yet the man in whom reason is the ruling faculty, will subdue all outward indications of the mighty afflatus. There is a supreme gas, a gas of all gases, and its particles are souls. All other gases exist by numerical arrangement, as Pythagoras well conjectured, when he prefigured the atomic theories of modern days. But there is an ultimate atom, a gas which is the basis of all others, and without which all is vacuum.

I knew that in an atmosphere of pure oxygen, the gas essential to life, and, at the same time, the agent of all decay, the vour itself (*soul, self*) as the Germans call it, his natural could live, and live with a wondrous acceleration of all the physical processes. In man this rapid consumption of matter was accompanied by an equal intensifying exaltation of the mental faculties. On this fact I founded my experiments, and the result was, at length, the combination of oxygen with other gases, in an artificial atmosphere of the most astounding and admirable qualities.

To breathe this air, was to breathe positive enjoyment. It was vaporised nectar and ambrosia. Its respiration was the life of a God. But it was also the embodied Sanzar—"the icy wind of death." No mortal could live more than a few months even in its partially diluted perfection. It was the short life and merry of the reckless popular adage, reduced to palpable embodiment.

On the other hand, this rapidity of life was only apparent. For we measure time by sensations; and the exalted powers of sensation, confirmed by breathing the wondrous gas, gave time a supernatural extension similar to the life of dreams, but free from all their shadowy indistinctness.

My resolution at once was taken. I would live and die in this glorified atmosphere. I would bid farewell to all that was earthly, without hesitation. I bought a magnificent chateau in the South of France. I furnished it by the expenditure of one-third of my fortune, in a few days, with all the luxury that imagination could suggest. I fitted up my apparatus for the production of the gas, and engaged, at the rate of some thousands of francs monthly, a young chemist of first-rate education, and superior energy and abilities. To him, I confided all the management and regulation of the apparatus, and of the whole establishment. One suite of rooms, the most splendid and with the finest prospect in the chateau, were to be my own enchanted habitation. Into these apartments, except at certain times and with due precautions, no servants were to enter. Every thing that I required was to be sent up through the floor, by means of tables that screwed up and down, by noiseless machinery. No one was to disturb me on any pretext; no letters were to be given me, and as the chemist was poor, almost starving when I first patronized him, I knew that so long as every month brought him a little fortune in itself, I might count on his absolute devotion. Beside, I deceived him as to my intention. There was only one room—the largest and most splendidly furnished in the house—which was to be actually filled with the life-accelerating gas. It communicated with other apartments by carefully constructed double doors, and of course it never entered the mind of the chemist that I intended to live and die in the deadly atmosphere which he was to create, or that, after so carefully ordering these hermetically closing double doors, I should purpose fixing them wide open, the moment I was shut up within my mysterious domicile, and thus causing the whole suite of apartments to fill with the same ethereal poison.

In other respects, the chemist was just the person I wanted; he was patient, faithful, and industrious. At the same time, he was a cold, stern man, well fitted to repress any insubordination or curiosity on the part of the household. And now all was prepared for the experiment. It only remained to persuade Mira to be my companion. For I confess that without her, even the potence of the marvellous gas must have failed in its action on my nerves. Her love had become a habit, a part of my being, I could not live or die without her.

And here let me for the first time say a few words about Mira.

She was an entirely exceptional woman. When I married her, some three years before the date of my final experiment, she was only sixteen years of age. Her beauty (I can find no newer or more intelligible image) was of the order which the finest painters strive to impart to their embodiments of angels, and beings superior to man. Its supreme loveliness was not in its delicate regularity of feature, dazzling whiteness and purity of skin, and majestic symmetry of form. All these seemed merely indispensable conditions of such an individuality. What made her irresistibly pleasing to the perceptions of an imaginative and thoughtful man, was a certain calm unutterable dignity and noble gentleness, that placed her above even the possibility of any of the meannesses and pettinesses of her sex. Had she the strong mind of a man, with all the purity and softness of an exquisitely delicate female organization. In temperament she was my equal, although [illegible]

of which also [illegible]
She was my only [illegible]
only real companion. [illegible]
cravings for greater [illegible]
love was my world, my [illegible]
the more so that I might almost [illegible]
trust its possession.

That Mira loved me, was [illegible] yet there was a calmness, a purity, and restful [illegible] tenor in her love, that could not [illegible] sublimate, and which yet [illegible] of the fiery-intensities with which I loved her. I would not have lost one of her kisses for all the embraces of all the beauties of the earth; and yet, to my [illegible] there seemed more than [illegible] a poet's simile implies, more than passion would ever exact beneath the [illegible]

In the delusion of my will, [illegible] which, after all, was but that of a [illegible] astray in the deserts and primeval forests of thought, I knew not that the source of her glorious beauty and of my delicious, however mixed initiated, passion, lay in the very qualities which I regretted, and which I insanely hoped to conquer by my infernal and philtre inventions.

To my surprise, I had no difficulty in persuading Mira to enter the enchanted atmosphere. A first trial of the [illegible] of course decided us. We gave ourselves up to the intense joy of life, to which [illegible] the future, were necessarily strange. The outer world became nothing to us. Love, exalted to a degree of power which to the breathers of common air is inconceivable, appreciation of beauty and delights which are alike inexplicable and incomprehensible, made up the sum of our existence. I pass over, therefore, the seven times seven days of our ethereal life, a period which in ideas and sensations was exquivalent to the ordinary lapse of ages, and hasten onward to the extraordinary catastrophe which left me what I am—a monster, more rare and wonderful than the sphinxes and chimeras of old, my fabulous prototypes.

Nor let the reader foolishly imagine that, because memory or science give me the power of describing passion, and thereby exciting his sympathies, that *I* personally do or can feel any echoing vibration of the wild chords which I cause to resound. Unearthly is the music—unearthly the musician.

Opening from the grand saloon of the chateau, was a superb conservatory of more than ordinary dimensions, commanding a view of one of the most splendid landscapes in the world. In the foreground, yet not sufficiently near to intercept the view, rose from the side of the hill, on which stood the chateau, the mingled foliage of an old and primitive forest, while beyond was visible the shining stream of the Rhone, lying, like the crooked sabre of some gigantic Paladin, upon the greensward; and far, far beyond rose the bluish shadowy outlines of mountains behind which the sun would set in golden glory, that made each snow-crowned peak a throne worthy of Sathanas—"the Emperor of the furnace."

Round this conservatory were arranged a collection of strange exotic and tropical plants, so as to leave the centre unoccupied, save by a few couches, chairs, and tables, on which lay volumes of poetry and philosophy, and portfolios of exquisite engravings and drawings. This was our favorite sitting-room. It was only necessary to open the glass doors between it and the saloon, to fill it with the same enchanted air; and I may mention as a curious example of the effects of this atmosphere on vegetation, that the grapes which were quite green and hard on its first introduction, ripened perfectly in a few days, and were the largest and most luscious fruit I had ever tasted or seen. It was one of Mira's greatest enjoyments to call me to watch the camellias budding and flowering actually before our eyes! Were I in the humor, I could write a hundred pages on the wonders of vegetation with which my residence in this gas-world made me acquainted. But I refrain without difficulty. To me, no science is worth a thought.

In the centre of this hall of crystal stood a white marble statue of Minerva, the only statue in which that goddess has ever been represented entirely without drapery. The figure was Mira's. I myself modelled it during the first year of our marriage, and it was carved by one of the most eminent French sculptors, who afterward died mad from a hopeless passion for the original. The fountain sprang from and formed the foliage of a glass tree stem, against which she leant, whilst the point of her spear drooped earthward from her arm, as if languid with the warfare against folly. Her head alone was covered with a helmet, which imparted a singular charm to the divine beauty of Mira's countenance.

At length, one day, toward evening, after seven weeks of solitude and happiness, which no Paradise could more than realize, a fatal accident destroyed at once our enjoyment, our experiment in science, and our lives. You shall hear it afterward—we were killed by the merest accident. My chemist, who managed the gas-generating apparatus, forgot, in amusing the centre at the proper time. The gas continued to enter in unprecedented volumes, and its effects were speedily perceptible.

We were seated in our favorite place in the conservatory, our eyes turned toward the setting sun, listening to the strains and harmonies [illegible]

...ad—I remember no more. When I recovered possession, not of my senses, but of my consciousness, I was still seated upon the sofa, on which the angel of death had surprised us, whilst on the marble pavement, at full length, her face turned upward with an expression of supernatural felicity, lay Mira—Mira, my wife, friend, and goddess—the fairest and noblest of women. She was dead.

Mira was dead. That was evident. But what was I? I rose, and regarded curiously the culpable chemist, who, having discovered his oversight, had hurried too late to our rescue. He had thrown wide open the windows of the conservatory. I inhaled the common air of the sky. But, though I breathed and moved, however incredible may appear the statement of a fact, hitherto unknown to science, I was to all intents and purposes as much a dead person as Mira herself. That is to say, I was dead to all sensation, emotion, passion, or by whatever other phrase may be described the action of the external world upon the sensitive being. It is true, I could hear, see, feel, taste, and smell, but such sensations had no longer any influence upon me either in causing dissatisfaction or satisfaction. My sensations were mere facts to my consciousness, and no more. Mira was dead, that was a fact. She lay there, pale and beautiful, before me—a fact. I myself had lost the half of my life—a fact. The chemist, who was the author of these hideous calamities, as men would say, stood trembling before me—another fact. In a word, I was a *living corpse*. One class of nerves, the nerves of sympathetic sensation, appeared either paralyzed, or exhausted of their circulating fluid. Love and anger were no longer my attributes. I had reached, truly, and at one stride, the *centre of indifference* told of by some philosophers. But it was a centre of indifference which they talk of without understanding. I did not understand it—*I was in it.*

The chemist stood pallid and trembling before me. He was a cold, unimpassioned, little, impressionable man. But in the presence of my dead eye and marble rigidity of feature, he trembled involuntarily. No doubt he mistook my absence of emotion for some tremendnous effect of internal passion. He evidently dreaded an explosion of a terrible nature. But I merely said:

"She is dead—you are no longer wanted—go."

For one moment he looked at me, with a most extraordinary expression, then, overwhelmed by the icy look with which I covered him, he departed in silence.

I remembered that his salary from the beginning was unpaid. Nor had he ever the courage to ask for it. Of course I could have no motive in sending it to him. The happiness of others was to me no longer a possible subject of interest. A man takes no interest in others, who can take none in himself. The chemist, driven to despair by poverty, committed suicide in the course of the same year.

At the end of a week, the body of Mira was buried. In the mean time, from physical habit, as it appeared, I one day took up a book—a volume of poetry. It was no longer poetry to me, but a collection of signs representing certain phenomena. A book of arithmetic was to me of precisely equal interest.

I had eaten and drank nothing since the great catastrophe, though I had been urged to do so by people to whose entreaties and pity I was alike indifferent. But, remarking that my body was wasting away, I ate a measured quantity, which I continued to do regularly afterward, though without any appetite or enjoyment.

I had reason and power of command over my body as much as ever. But those operations which formerly were the result of impulse, I had now to perform as pure acts of will. The only reason why I did not quietly await death, was a clear intellectual consciousness of the fact that I was in an abnormal state, and that it was also possible that I should return to the natural conditions of humanity.

Without being a desire, the discovery of the means of effecting this change became my only object; and in order to attain what, in reality, I cared nothing about (the contradiction is only apparent), I spent years in trying the most extraordinary experiments in natural science ever imagined. Perfectly indifferent to the success or non-success of my experiments, I yet worked on. If I might be said to have anything left resembling a desire, it was a passionless inclination toward abstract truth, which seemed to be a sort of mechanico-spiritual law of my being. But to compare this mere gravitation toward an abstract centre, to the ardent enthusiasm of ordinary men of science, would be absurd. And here, I recognise the impossibility of conveying to a living man the impression of a corpse. Therefore I abandon further attempt at illustration.

Perhaps one fact may explain more than much analysis. After some years, during which time I made numerous scientific discoveries of the most remarkable character, I lighted upon the secret. I had it in my power at any moment to return to life, to rise again from the dead, and once more to share the passions and cares of men. But I had no motive to change my condition. I remained a corpse. The discovery was to me—a fact.

Why should I again inhale the gas of happiness and destruction, why revive to an existence that would be a type of the fabled bells of legendary lore? Mira is dead. I am a living corpse; and I the only being bearing the shape of man who could ever honestly declare himself to be *perfectly contented with his lot.*

— The Rev. Mr. Bowen, in his third and last lecture on Africa, made the remarkable and encouraging statement that in some districts of that country, under the influence of Christianity and civilization, "the people now refuse to sell slaves, as they need them all for making palm oil!" A most pious and philanthropic idea, truly. And, since whales are getting to be very scarce, who knows but if Christianity and Civilization (allied, perhaps, by a little chemistry) should progress a step further, that the poor negroes may also be used for making sperm oil? Now, would a relief like simple suicide of disposing of "that class of things call Africans," and these shrieking slaves, would be to the Confederates and Tariff Democrats!

The Saturday Press.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 22, 1859.

EDITORIAL.

If anybody has a right to say "We," it is the occupant of our editorial chair; for when, in the pride of our heart, we ordered that solemn piece of furniture, and detailed the various mysterious attributes it must possess, our worthy and simple-minded cabinetmaker, observing that we always addressed him in the first person plural, so constructed the machine (for it really is a machine) that it should accommodate not merely our own editorial corpus, which of itself is rather bulky, but our whole editorial corps.

For this, then, if for no other reason, we assume at once the prescriptive "We," and use it not as signifying, according to Webster, "men in general, including the speaker," but the speaker alone excluding men in general.

And while so doing, we may as well reply in advance to all inquiries as to the editorship of the SATURDAY PRESS, by the simple if not satisfactory statement, that it is edited solely and exclusively by "Us."

And now a word as to our mode of editing.

Not long since we heard a distinguished lawyer of this city remark that he thought it would be a great improvement in our city newspapers if they would abolish their editorial department entirely, and devote the space it occupies to useful information or to the lucubrations of sensible men. The remark was rather a startling one, but on being explained it struck us that our friend was more than half right. At any rate, we are indebted to him for a very valuable hint, acting upon which we will here inform the readers of the SATURDAY PRESS, that while it will doubtless contain as much valuable matter as any other journal, it will not give up its editorial columns on the one hand to lengthy political articles (in which nobody that we know of takes any interest), nor, on the other, to pedantic disquisitions on subjects—European politics and the like—concerning which our editors and the public at large are, and might as well remain, wholly ignorant.

The one aim of the paper will be to furnish its readers with as great a variety as possible of interesting facts, leaving him the privilege of making his own comments.

With political matters, we shall have very little to do. The common supposition that the reading public are chiefly interested in the squabbles of politicians, is as unfounded as that in matters of fiction they have no taste except for flash stories. The truth is that they have been bored to death with both. Most of our newspapers, filled as they are with such trash, would appear to be edited for the exclusive benefit of hack-politicians and servant girls; two very numerous classes of people, no doubt, and one of them (the second) sufficiently intelligent; but whatever their deserts they hardly deserve so much attention from the press, for there still remains a large portion of the community who at least have some claims to consideration, though they happen to care nothing about "Bleeding Kansas," and have never read a line of "The Pirate's Revenge."

Among this class, there is demand especially for a more complete report of what is doing in the world of letters. This demand we shall do our best to meet, and by this means, and the publication of well-written stories, such as appear in the best English Reviews, and latterly in the "Atlantic Monthly" and "Harper's Magazine," we hope to make at least a readable paper.

A VERY PRETTY QUARREL AS IT STANDS.

The paternity of the following poetical attack upon Bulwer, from the pages of *Punch*, is claimed for Tennyson:

THE NEW TIMON AND THE POETS.

We know him out of Shakspeare's art,
And those fine curses which he spoke:
The old Timon with his noble heart,
That, strongly loathing, greatly broke.

So died the Old: here comes the New.
Regard him: a familiar face:
I thought we knew him; what, it's you,
The paddleman—that wears the stays!

Who killed the girls and thrilled the boys
With dandy pathos when you wrote,
A Lion you, that made a noise,
And shook a mane en papillotes.

And once you tried the muses too:
You failed, Sir: therefore now you turn;
You fall on those who are to you
As Captain is to Subaltern.

But men of long-enduring hopes,
And careless what this hour may bring,
Can pardon little would-be Popes
And Brummels when they try to sting.

An artist, Sir, should rest in Art,
And waive a little of his claim;
To have the deep poetic heart
Is more than all poetic fame.

But you, Sir, you are hard to please;
You never look but half content:
Nor like a gentleman at ease,
With moral breadth of temperament.

And what with spites and what with fears,
You cannot let a body be:
It's always ringing in your ears,
"They call this man as good as me."

What profits now to understand
The merits of a spotless shirt,
A dapper boot—a little hand,
If half the little soul is dirt!

You talk of tinsel! why, we see
The old mark of rouge upon your cheeks;
You prate of Nature! you are he
That spit his filth about the cliques.

A Timon you! Nay, nay, for shame:
It looks too arrogant a jest—
The fierce old man—to take his name,
You bandbox. Off, and let him rest.

—*Athenæum.*

The short poem in Tennyson's Works, called "The Character," is also intended for Bulwer. Tennyson has left this in his latest edition. It may acquire a new significance for some of our readers, when they learn for whom it is intended. We therefore reprint it entire.

A CHARACTER.

With a half glance upon the sky
At night he said, "The wanderings
Of this mere lintwhite make Universe
Touch me the nothingness of things."
Yet could not all creation pierce
Beyond the bottom of his eye.

His speaks of beauty: that the dell
Grew so divinely in green,
Life in dead stones, or spirit in air;
Then looking as 't were in a glass,
He smoothed his cloth and admired his hair,
And said the earth was beautiful.

He spake of virtue: not the gods
More purely, when they wish to charm
Pallas and Juno sitting by:
And with a sweeping of the arm,
And a lofty moral time in eye,
Devolved his rounded periods.

Most delicately, hour by hour,
He canvassed human depravities,
And wept on silk, as if their tears
Blew his own gnats in his eyes,
And stood aloof from other minds
In impotence of finished power.

With lips depressed as he were mask,
Himself unto himself he sold:
Upon himself himself did feed:
Quick, eyeless cheeks, and cold,
And other than his form of mind,
With stitched feathers clear and sleek.

The moving cause of these attacks were some lines in the first two or three editions of the "New Timon," which was published some ten or twelve years ago, anonymously, but which Bulwer afterwards acknowledged. The lines containing the attack upon Tennyson, and the note, have been omitted in all the editions which appeared with Bulwer's name as author. To give both sides, we publish the offending extract:

"He felt both strikes, to say from vain mad wrong,
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

manager in the city could inspire. The drill of the company is so perfect, the dramatic machinery moves so smoothly. There is elegance, but there is also strength. A touch of dandyism, but, under the dandyism, there is muscle. So, in the emotionless lounger, in Hyde Park, all the exterior is perfumed and carefully tailored, yet, on occasion, he can ride over a six-foot wall, lead a charge up the heights of the Alma, or hit from the shoulder like Cribb or Molyneux. It is with no feeling of ingratitude to the out-going lessee, that I express my pleasure at seeing Mr. Wallack once more in the managerial chair at the corner of Broome street. To Mr. Stuart the public is indebted for much delightful entertainment, and he bore himself with extraordinary literality and gallantry during a season of unexampled melancholy and distaste. Generous to dramatic authors, and unusually amiable to artists, he certainly leaves none but pleasant memories behind him. But, somehow, Mr. Wallack belongs to that theatre. He rescued it from rapid decay, and made it a theatre, which, in its peculiar line, had no rival in the city. The completeness of his little companies, the excellence of the stage management, which, if never daring, was always satisfactory and elegant, the certainty of a perfect propriety reigning on the stage, all rendered it a necessity with such of our people as relished polite comedy and unobjectionable melo-drama.

One of those elegant trifles, which Mr. Charles Dance constructs better than any other author, was produced here on Monday night. I saw it on Tuesday. It is entitled "Marriage a Lottery," and is in two acts. It is one of those petite drawing-room comedies, the spirit of which depends entirely on easy and epigrammatic dialogue, of which the author, in such works as "a Morning Call," and "Delicate Ground," has already shown his mastery. Both acts pass in a very charmingly painted interior. The critic of the *Times* thus epitomizes the plot: "The hero is a gentleman of undecided habits, who falls into the clutches of an ambitious matron with a marriageable daughter, and conceives, by some impossible train of reasoning, that he is bound to be tormented by the one, and wedded by the other. He is relieved from his predicament by the usual expedients. An assistant lover steps in and relieves his principal of the young lady, whilst compensatory cheques for preposterous amounts appease the old one." The machinery of the piece is slight and improbable, but the dialogue is brilliant, and what may be called the conversational situations, extremely amusing. The hero, one Mr. Wilful Waverly, a wealthy bachelor, was played by Mr. Lester, with exceeding ease and graceful humor. One or two points of his acting, such as his allowing his hat to remain on his head in the absurd position in which Mrs. Pointer (Mrs. Vernon) placed it, merely for the sake of raising a laugh, were farcical, and out of tone with the well-bred character of the comedy. Mrs. Vernon's interpretation of the tyrannical would-be mother-in-law was absolutely faultless, and Mr. Sloan's dogmatic Grimsby, the valet, full of quiet excellence. Mr. Brougham's very amusing burlesque of "Neptune's defeat," helped by his very amusing singing and acting, and Miss Mary Gannon's dashing assumption of the "Gay Young Spark," *Electros*, still continues to attract good audiences.

PICCOLOMINI AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The fair young princess, who, as Mr. Ullman insists, does not care about being a princess; the Cardinal's niece, who, we are bound to believe, has inherited all the Cardinal virtues, made her debut on Wednesday night, at the 14th street Opera House. The house was crowded. It was one of the best toilletted assemblages I have ever seen. Beauty and Tiffany were in the ascendant, and the boxes, dress circle, and parquette were *parterres* of floral and female bloom.

It is difficult to form a correct judgment of Mademoiselle Piccolomini's vocal powers in an Opera like the Traviata. It is an Opera of expression, and does not abound in those florid passages, which, in some of Rossini's works, are such infallible tests of the executive powers of a singer. All that the music of La Traviata required, Piccolomini, I think, performed. She was intensely dramatic, moving, and sympathetic. The quality of her voice is eminently suitable for the rendering of that intense story of domestic woe which Verdi has set to music. That terrible third act, with its broken utterances of despair, and its wild death-song of passionate joy at the end, was given by Piccolomini with wonderful pathos and electric force. Her acting in all, even the most minor details, is a study, and is seemingly spontaneous. It remains for us, however, to hear Mademoiselle Piccolomini in Grand Opera, where she will become the rival of such singers as Grisi and Cruvelli, before the public can determine her rank as a vocalist.

Her début, on Wednesday night was, however, in all respects, a perfect triumph, and her many recalls vehemently enthusiastic.

THE TRIBUNE CRITIC.

It is well known to students of human nature, that no person is so ruthless to an erring woman as a woman who has erred. Some time since, the *Tribune*, a paper of the most abandoned grammatical morals, severely reprehended a gentleman named Haseltine, for looseness of conduct with his nouns and verbs. The *Tribune* was inexorable to its fellow sinner. Haseltine has, I trust, reformed, but the *Tribune* still holds on to its vicious courses. Its musical critic thus insanely discourses of the concert of Mlle. Emma Wellis,—

"She (the lady) performs on the Alexandre organ—a new style of chamber organ, about the size of a cabinet piano. *In this capacity* she has no rival for excellence."

In what capacity? That of a chamber organ? If not, what in the name of Calliope is this Mademoiselle Wellis? Is she an automaton, full of pipes, and stops, and keys? Does she wear crinoline, or is she dressed in rosewood? I pause for a reply.

Here is a bewildering statement,—

"She performed a fantasia on the Trovatore, two melodies by Bolan, the organist, a duo on the organ and piano, playing on an instrument with two sets of keys, the one giving the organ, the other the piano, and a Christmas hymn by Adam."

I wonder how the Trovatore liked the fantasia that was performed on him? What wonderful sets of keys must these be, "one of which gives the organ, while the other munificently contributes a piano, and a Christmas hymn by Adam."

The idiot eulogises the Alexandre organ. "The tone," he says, "is adequate to sustain a small choir." What a heavy swell that organ must have! What sort of support does it give a small choir? Does it merely suspend the youthful vocalists in mid air, or give them board and lodging? Marvellous instrument!

Go on, Critic of the *Tribune*, give us some more of your astonishing English composition. Clever and learned as Mr. Fry's criticisms frequently are, I prefer yours. There is an unconscious humor about them, that is inimitable.

DRAMATIC ON DITS.

Mr. Boucicault has in rehearsal at Niblo's, and will produce there on Tuesday, a new piece with the mysterious title of "The Pope of Rome." The cast is to embrace the entire strength of the company; but whether Mr. Boucicault is to play the Pope himself, I have not learned. He wears the turban so well in Nora Bahib, that it is not improbable he may be ambitious to assume the tiara.

Mr. Frank Goodrich, one of the authors of "Fascination," and of the "Poor of New York," has just completed an original five act comedy of modern society life in New York, of which report speaks favorably. I am not at liberty to mention the title.

It is rumored that Mr. J. W. Wallack will appear [illegible]

Doctor Palmer, the author of "Miss Wimple's Hoop," in the last two numbers of the *Atlantic Monthly*, is engaged in dramatizing that interesting story.

DODO.

LITERARY ITEMS.

— Messrs. Bangs, Merwin & Co., will offer for sale at their auction rooms, on the 26th inst., and following days, a collection of books, autographs, and medals, which, particularly the latter, will be worth the attention of the curious in such matters. The works on numismatics are many of them rare and valuable.

— "*The Trials of a Public Benefactor*," is the modest title of a volume of 460 pages, all about the life of Dr. A. T. G. Morton, and his trials in discovering, perfecting, proclaiming, and maintaining the discovery of etherization.

— The correspondence of Napoleon the First, published by order of the present Emperor, is announced. The collection will consist of about 15 volumes, three or four of which will appear every year. The price of each volume will be six francs.

— Apropos, we presume, of Mr. Sumner's sojourn in France, Mr. Victor Fournel has written a work entitled, *Du rôle des coups de bâton dans les relations sociales et, en particulier, dans l'histoire litteraire.*

— The Woman's Rights movement is progressing in Paris. Mr. Leon Fay has issued a work entitled "Non! la femme n'est pas inférieur à l'homme [No! woman is *not* inferior to man].

— A large quantity of the original MSS. of Pope has been discovered in London, having been preserved by the two Richardsons, father and son. The London *Illustrated News*, in announcing their discovery, remarks:

"That Pope was a laborious corrector of his writings, that he arrived at excellence only by repeated alterations with the pen, we knew before from the MS. of the 'Iliad,' most fortunately preserved in the British Museum; but to what extent he carried his alterations and corrections no one who has not seen the newly-recovered MSS. to which we call attention, could have the faintest conception of. What the MSS. are worth, the reader will readily imagine when he learns that this precious bundle (casket, shall we call it?) contains the 'Essay on Criticism,' 'Windsor Forest,' 'The Rape of the Lock,' the 'Essay on Man,' the 'Moral Epistles,' the 'Epistle to Arbuthnot,' the 'Epistle to Fortescue,' and suppressed editions of the 'Dunciad,' with notes upon them that might supply matter to *Notes and Queries* for the next six months. Part of the 'Epistle to Fortescue' is written roughly on the reverse of pieces of paper transmitting nauseous 'draughts' for Mr. Pope to take night and morning."

The balance of Mr. Dawson Turner's collection of manuscripts, autographs, and books, has been consigned to Messrs. Patrick & Simpson for sale. Of the autographs there are said to be more than thirty thousand, and the manuscripts contain whole volumes filled with letters of Queen Elizabeth, the Medici Family, Buonaparte, General Wolfe, the Duke of Marlboro, Tasso, Voltaire, Sir I. Newton, Galvani, Harvey, the Poet Gray, the the correspondence of Maria Shurman, the learned lady, a selection of whose works in Greek, Latin, French, and Hebrew, was published by the Elzivirs. The Virtue MSS. formerly at Strawberry Hill, and from which Horace Walpole made his anecdotes of the Fine Arts in England, is also contained in the collection.

— M. Rouland, the French Minister of Instruction, has ordered the publication, on a grand scale, of two national works—one a *Carte des Gaules*, the other a *Dictionnaire Geographique*. The map will form a sort of topographical history of France from the conquest of Julius Cæsar to the end of the Roman dominion. The dictionary will form a complete history of the eighty-six departments of France, from the earliest times, and will contain ample details in archæology, topography, and statistics.

— Doctor Sanger, Government physician at Blackwell's Island, is about to issue from the press of Messrs. Harper & Brothers, a complete History of Prostitution in all countries, its causes and its remedy. Dr. Sanger brings to this labor a vast experience, an enlarged liberality of thought, and has devoted years of a practical life to the accumulation of most interesting matter directly touching the subject under treatment. A work by such hands, on a question of such vital importance to society, cannot fail to be one of the most interesting publications of the day.

— Mr. Brunet, the celebrated bibliographer, though now very old, purposes to publish a new edition of his "Manual for the Library, and the Amateur of Books," which has been for some time very rare. The edition will be rearranged, and have large additions. Didot, who will be the publisher, announces the first volume for next July. The edition will be in six volumes, at a cost of 18 francs each, or 100 francs for the subscription to the entire work. Copies of the last edition sell readily for forty to fifty dollars.

— The first volume of Rabelais, in the *Bibliotheque Elzivirsane*, published by P. Jannet, has just appeared. The publishers claim that it is the only edition conformed to the original text, and containing the last corrections of the author. It has also an account of the different editions and their variations, with notes and a glossary. The *Bibliotheque Elzivirsane* is one of the most perfect specimens of book-making, alike as regards typography, paper, and the form of the volume, that the modern press has issued.

— The interesting series of papers, recently published in the *Tribune*, under the title of "*A Summer Cruise on the Coast of New England*," and which were especially interesting to the piscatory public, are attributed to the pen of Mr. Robert Carter, of Boston. We are happy to learn that they are shortly to be published in a book form.

— The French Academy will soon publish the first part of its great Historical Dictionary of the French language (dictionnaire historique de la langue française). The first part, which is printed by the house of Firmin Didot, will make a small volume in quarto, and will soon be ready for sale. It is computed that the work necessary in the completion of this dictionary is so immense, that the publication will take at least one hundred years.

— Among the new works announced by Amyot, the French publisher, is a work by Jules Janin entitled Rachel and Tragedy. It will be a large volume in octavo, with ten photographs from nature of Rachel in her principal characters. They were taken at her own request, before her death. The price will be thirty francs.

— A new novel, called "Eva Dodmond," showing that a first love may be reasonably replaced by a second, has made quite a sensation in London, and is well spoken of by the critics.

— Miss Brightwell, of Norwich, Eng., has just published a "*Life of Linnæus*;" and Lady Wilkinson, also an English lady, an elegantly illustrated work, entitled "*Weeds and Wild Flowers.*"

— A new novel, entitled "*Trust and Trial*," translated from the Danish, by Mary Howitt, has just been published in London.

— Mr. G. W. Thornbury, of England, has just published a work, partially an [illegible]

— The republication of the Memoirs of the Duke St. Simon (with a notice of the author, by Sainte Beuve, has been completed in 20 volumes). They present a picture of the times of Louis XIV., and the Regency, as interesting as, and analogous with, that of Charles the First in Pepy's Diary.

— We are pleased to learn that the favorite old *Knickerbocker Magazine*, under the editorial management of Dr. James O. Noyes, has increased its circulation by several thousands.

— We have received from Messrs. Redd & Cockton, two new novels, one entitled "Vernon Grove," and written not as has been hinted by the author of "John Halifax" (to whom in respect to plot and characterization, it would do credit), but by Mrs. C. H. Glover, the accomplished daughter of the gifted Mrs. Gilman, of South Carolina; and the other entitled "Isabella Orsini," written by the translator of "Beatrice Cenci," a writer of whom Professor Felton, of Harvard University, says in the Boston *Journal*:—

"There can be no question that these novels of Guerrazzi are of marked and high literary merit. Their style is clear, pure, and vigorous. The power of the author is shown in his brilliant pictures, his vivid descriptions, and his brief energetic expressions of feelings. His characters are drawn with short, sharp strokes, as with the point of a sword. The reader becomes a spectator. From his post of observation he sees a drama enacted before him; the scenery and costumes are perfect; there is a fearful earnestness and vitality in the performers. With parted lips, and cheek growing paler, he watches with eagerness the progress of the action till the curtain falls."

THE MAGAZINES AND THEIR CONTENTS.

OCTOBER.

COLBURN'S NEW MONTHLY.—Memoirs of Marie Antoinette; Raby Verner, by the author of Ashley; The Princess Orsini, by Sir Nathaniel; Adventures of an Old Sailor; Who is Sane? by Edward P. Rowsell; Northern Lights, by Heberden Milford; Prison Hours; Mutations; Too Old, by Mrs Bushby; Hans Ernst Mitterkamp, an Autobiography; A Peep at the Far West, by an Englisher.

BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW.—Frondes' History of England; The Vatican Greek Testament; Kalendars and old Almanacks; Wycliffe—his Biographers and Critics; M. Comte's Religion for Atheists; Herodotus—Rarohusin; Political Parties since the Revolution; Our Epilogue on Affairs and Books.

LONDON REVIEW.—Character and Condition of the English Poor; Arabian Philosophy; English Dictionaries; North Wales and its Scenery; Use of the Roman Character in the Indian Languages; The Last of the Alchemists; Merivale's Roman History; John Albert Bengel; The Southern Frontier of the Russian Empire; Brief Literary Notices.

BENTLEY'S MISCELLANY.—St. Cornice's Cathedral; A Last Will and Testament; Winter Reminiscences of Algiers; Voiture, by Markahood; The Sexton's Brother; Correspondence of Napoleon I.; Twice Avenged; Yesterday—and—Tomorrow, by W. Charles Kent; Mazarin and his Nieces; Faint Heart Never Won Fair Lady, by Dudley Cortello (continued).

NOVEMBER.

HARPER'S MONTHLY.—Ethan Allen. By B. J. Lossing; The Voyage of Paul; Strain's Gallop Across the Pampas; My Angel; Our Wives; Next Year; Our Queer Papa; One of My Lovers; Deadman's Corner; Margaret—The Lay Sister; The Virginians, Chap. 45 to 49 inclusive; Monthly Record of Current Events; Literary Notices; An Affair of Honor (a series of illustrations); Fashions for November, etc.

KNICKERBOCKER.—The Bourbon who Never Reigned, by A. Wilder; Lines, "Our Loss;" Theophilus Sumpunk, by Don Pastel; Lines, "Going to Rest," by Phœbe Carey; The Stars, of Heaven and Earth; Military Adventurers; The Old Gambrel-Roof, by Henry Clapp, Jr.; The Millennial Club, by George W. Curtis; Thomas Jefferson, Concluding Paper; Lines, "Under the Rose;" The Little Giant, by Henry Clapp, Jr.; A Fragment from the Persian; "Hallo! My Fancy, Whither Wilt Thou Go?" by Mrs. Stoddard; Hunting the Hinds of Hijaz, by James O. Noyes; The Gift of Love; Time-Keeping, A Chapter on Witches; Ladders of Sunbeams; Literary Notices; Editor's Table.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—Railway-Engineering in the United States; Her Grace, the Drummer's Daughter; Work and Rest; Colin Clout and the Fairy Queen; Miss Wimple's Hoop; Nature and the Philosopher; Thomas Jefferson; A Prisoner of War; the "Washing of the Feet," on Holy Thursday, in St. Peter's; Physical Courage; November; a Visit to the Autocrat's Landlady; the Great Event of the Century; the Last Look; a Sample of Consistency; Literary Notices.

Special Notice.—The "Autocrat" will continue his admirable contributions to the "Atlantic," The Publishers have deemed it necessary to make this announcement in consequence of a prevalent impression to the contrary.

— *Harper's Magazine*, for this month, contains its usual variety of interesting and valuable matter. In its own peculiar line this Magazine has no equal. The common idea, that its articles are mostly taken from foreign periodicals, is abundantly disproved by the fact that, among its principal contributors are Revs. John S. C. and Jacob Abbott (though Heaven deliver us from any more historical articles by either of them), Donald G. Mitchell; John G. Saxe; R. H. Stoddard; Miss Rose Terry; Richard Hildreth; W. Allen Butler; Alice Carey; William C. Bryant; George W. Curtis; Fitz James O'Brien; Thomas B. Aldrich; J. D. Whelpley; J. W. Palmer; Henry Clapp, Jr.; A. H. Guernsey; Charles Nordhoff; Herman Melville; Henry S. Sanford; J. T. Trowbridge; E. P. Whipple, &c.

— The "*Atlantic*," of this month, maintains its high character as preëminently the best literary magazine ever published in this country. With such contributors as R. W. Emerson, James Russell Lowell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry W. Longfellow, William C. Bryant, John G. Whittier, Rose Terry, Edmund P. Whipple, Fitz James O'Brien, Dr. Palmer, Dr. Whelply, etc., it could not well be otherwise.

— The last number of the *London Critic*, for sale by Willmer & Rogers, contains an admirable portrait of Charles Dickens, from a photograph by Herbert Watkins.

MEDICAL WORKS.

Scribner & Co. advertise the following medical books of the Sydenham Society publications:—

VELPEAU'S Treatise on the Diseases of the Breast and Mammary Region. Translated by M. Henry. Thick 8vo., cloth extra, top edge gilt.

CHRISTISON'S Medical Logic, translated and edited by G. Whatley, M.D. 8vo. &c.

WILLIS'S Rudiments of Physiological Medicine. Translated by George Burt. Illustrations. 8vo. &c.

BARON DUPUYTREN on Lesions of the Vascular System, Diseases of the Bones, and Orthopædical Complaints. Translated by F. Le Gros Clark. 8vo. &c.

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...LISHED.

...OCTOBER 23, 1858.

A PSALM OF LIFE.

BY BROADFELLOW.

What the heart of one egg said to another.

Tell me not in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
Chickens in their oval slumbers
Are by no means what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And this shell is not its pen;
Egg thou art, in egg remainest,
Was not spoken of the hen.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to scratch, that each to-morrow
Find us fatter than to-day.

Art is long, and time is fleeting,
Be our bills, then, sharpened well;
Nor like muffled drums be beating
On the inside of the shell,

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the great barnyard of life,
Be not like the lazy cattle,
Be a rooster in the strife!

Trust no hawk, however pleasant;
And yet never be it said,
When the birds of prey were present,
You were skulking in the shed.

Lives of old cocks all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime;
And when roasted, leave behind us
Bird tracks on the sands of time.

Bird tracks that perhaps another
Chicken drooping in the rain,
A forlorn and hen-pecked brother,
When he sees shall crow again!

Let us, then, be after hatching,
With a heart for every fate,
Ever crowing, ever scratching,
Learn to cackle and to prate.

—*Home Journal.*

TIME-KEEPING:

WATCH-MAKING AND AMERICAN WATCHES.

Time, the subtlest marvel of the universe!—Time, the builder, the destroyer, the consoler, an illimitable ocean of eternities! Who can fix its beginning or mark its periods? The measureless harmonies of the material universe; the rapid wheeling of countless orbs in the broad fields of space; the erratic flight of comets; the unspent operation of the forces of Nature, exhibited at all points in the created universe, fall within Time's inflexible periods and cycles.

What inconceivable disasters would result, even from a momentary delay on the part of the earth to move within its allotted periods! All motion arrested for a single moment of time, and the organic universe would return to chaos.

Yet man has no natural sense of time, which has developed the sciences, the arts, and the whole history of human action. He commences his being unconscious of the hurrying moments. Watchless, as well as garmentless, he comes into the world, and the hours and minutes are not marked on the great dial of the sky. He has had to invent the very necessity of having them marked at all.*

Not till after thousands of years of timing by guess, and other thousands of rude measurements by the flow of sand or water, or the movement of a shadow, did the race at last provide itself with miniature stationary or portable solar systems—machines substantially isochronous with the sun—which show to a minute, or the sixtieth part of it, in the cloudiest day, the darkest night, or deepest cave, how long it is since the sun passed a given meridian.

The utility of this achievement is incalculable; is far more valuable for humanity than if the seconds, minutes, and hours had been visibly marked on the zodiac by the hand of the Almighty. It is this ubiquitous legibility of time that makes it possible for the human race to keep step, and act in concert individually or in masses, giving a power to the whole greater than the power of one multiplied by the number of the whole. If, for instance, man had not provided himself with an accurate and reliable time-keeper, before attempting to arrest the forces of steam and electricity, he would have found it impossible to establish the net-work of railways, telegraphs, and lines of ocean-steamers, which are now constantly bearing in rapid flight precious freights in every direction, with a certainty and celerity second only to the operations of Nature.

The progress of this great invention, too great to be attributed to any single individual, was for ages almost imperceptible. First, there was the herdsmen, watching the sun by day and the moon and stars by night, dividing the blue space into hand and finger breadths, and making use of his eye as a quadrant to determine altitudes. Then the march of the shadow was graduated, and the dial took its place in garden and in courtyard, and the noon-mark by the sill of the window and the threshold of the door-way. The hour-glass of sand or of water, made to correspond to the divisions on the dial-plate, came into use for nights and cloudy days. The clepsydra, a kind of portable tide, was employed long before the Christian era; and even two thousand years ago, Ctesibius, of Alexandria, had added wheels, making it in fact a water-clock.

Clepsydræ appear to have been used in China, India, Chaldea, and Egypt, in the most remote antiquity. Plato introduced them from the latter country into Greece. Julius Cæsar found them even in Britain, where they were probably carried by the Phœnicians. Clepsydræ with tooth-wheels are to be seen sculptured on Trajan's Column at Rome, where the first sun-dial was set up by L. Papirius Cursor, 301 B. C. The Romish clergy were mainly instrumental in introducing the art of clock-making into Europe. The measurement of time for the regulation of the stated services of the church was so desirable, that their attention was necessarily called to a subject in which they were much interested.

It was not until the tenth century that a clock going by weight was invented, which however had neither minute-hand to indicate the exact time, nor pendulum to regulate its motion, but was provided with a balance-wheel of two weights, oscillating on a line in a horizontal plane.

In this rude clock the weights were moveable on the lever; and by changing their relation to the centre of motion, their vibrations through the arc of a circle, determined by pallets playing into the teeth of a crown-wheel, were of such length as to give the hour-hand two revolutions in twenty-four hours. Pope Sylvester II. is said to have made the first clock of this kind in Europe, for which he was accused by the ignorant of intimate relations with the devil. The balance was substantially the same as that of our present watches, and the crown-wheel escapement is yet hardly out of use. But though the great mechanical principle of the time-keeper—the division of a constant force into equal portions—was thus early developed, it required some eight hundred years more to perfect the mechanism and bring it into use in the household and the pocket.

It is remarkable that the church tower clock had been reduced to pocket size with a coil spring instead of a weight as a moving power, and was actually worn, before the application of the pendulum to the clock, or of the balance-spring to the balance of a watch.* These two great improvements in horology were made almost simultaneously two hundred years ago, and in both cases history divides the credit. It is usually stated that Galileo, from observing the swinging of a lamp hung from the top of a church, discovered that pendulums oscillate through different arcs in the same time—a property denominated the isochronism of the pendulum. It is also said that "the ancient astronomers of the East employed pendulums in measuring the times of their observations, patiently counting their vibrations during the phases of an eclipse or a transit of the stars, and renewing them with a little push with the finger when they languished; and Gassendi, Ricioli, and others in more recent times followed their example.

As is usual in such cases, the discovery of the isochronism of the pendulum was probably made independently by several persons about the same time; and the invention naturally led to its application to clocks. A clock-maker by the name of Harris is said to have made a pendulum clock for St. Paul's, Covent Garden, in 1621, several years before Dr. Hooke, Huygens, or Galileo's son, all of whom claimed priority.

But whoever was the inventor of pendulum clocks, there is no doubt that Huygens was the discoverer of the true theory of the pendulum; and although his application of the theory is now abandoned, all pendulum calculations depend upon it. He discovered that the curve in which a body must move so as to oscilliate through large and small arcs in the same time, is not a circle, but a cycloid.

The spiral hair-spring does the same for a watch that the pendulum does for a clock, that is, with a proper escapement makes the vibrations the same in time irrespective of the amount of force exerted by the main-spring. Before the hair-spring and improved escapement were introduced, it was necessary that the moving force should be constant, and, as the main-spring pulled harder when fully wound up than when partly so, it was made to act upon the main driving-wheel by means of a chain coiled on a fusee, so that the loss of force by the uncoiling of a spring was compensated by the chain acting further from the centre. The adoption of the hair-spring and improved escapements rendered this clumsy arrangement useless; yet the English watch-makers, who claim for their countryman, Dr. Hooke, the credit of inventing the hair-spring, and who were the first to adopt the detached or lever-escapement, still continue to make watches with fusees. During two hundred years, in the face of an active continental competition, they have manufactured very few watches without them.†

The extent of the simplification will be understood when we consider that a watch without a fusee contains about one hundred and twenty parts, while one with fusee and chain consists of more than eight hundred, the chain alone being formed of seven hundred pieces, thus affording nearly seven hundred additional chances of disarrangement by flaws in the material or imperfect workmanship.

With the pendulum, the balance-spring, and proper escapements, clocks and watches would be nearly perfect, were it not for the disturbing effect of temperature, which makes them thermometers as well as chronometers; and just so far as they indicate changes in the atmosphere, they lose their efficiency in the latter capacity.

There are two ways of correcting this disturbance: one is in having a bit of metal so placed that its expansion will strengthen the hair-spring by shortening it; another method is to make the balance of two metals of different degrees of expansibility so arranged that the average mass of the balance is brought nearer the centre of motion by expansion.

It was this compensation, first effectually applied by Harrison, if not invented by him, which won for the London watch-maker the reward of £20,000, offered by the British Board of Longitude, for an instrument with which the longitude at sea, within a given limit, could be unerringly ascertained. By means of this discovery, the culminating triumph of watch-making, we are enabled to manufacture a mechanism which, in spite of the changes of matter, will guide us over a trackless ocean by the accuracy of its records of time.

The compensation of the balance is ordinarily of much less importance than its correct poising, which makes the time the same in all positions, the jeweling of the holes, and the accurate fitting of the pivots in them. In jeweling, the highest accuracy of human workmanship is required. There must be microscopic exactness in planing, turning, and drilling the most impenetrable materials. The pivots must move in their holes with perfect ease, and yet without spare room to accommodate the thousandth part of a hair. These jewels are precious stones, usually rubies, sapphires, or chrysolites, and inferior only to the diamond in hardness. The drilling of them was for a long time an art of itself. When all these requirements are supplied in the best manner, time is conquered, and the mechanism becomes enduring as well as almost infallible.

Naturally an article of such beauty and utility as the watch—a thing so personal, so closely related to one's life, so social, so indispensable to progress and power—should be desired by everybody capable of using and preserving it. Hence every civilized country has had its manufacturers, and millions of watches have been made, varying indefinitely as to quality, from Napoleon's, which wound itself up constantly by the motion of its wearer, to the big brass bull's-eye of the Cornish miner, and the thin French cousin of our Yankee wooden clock to be found in the fob of the cheapest ready-made outfit. Yet, in all this wide manufacture there has been no connected and comprehensive system, but every watch was made by hand and had a strong individuality of its own, so that the works of the same maker have had a great variety, no two of them being alike.

In Europe the rough parts of the watch usually come from several distinct workshops, all meeting at last in the *atelier* of the finisher, often residing in a distant city or even in a foreign country, who puts the mechanism together and sets it in motion.

It is plain enough, that owing to this want of system there can be but very few perfect watches. Only the very best works of the very best finishers approach perfection. The mass of hand-made watches are never good except in appearance. A large class of mechanics are employed in all civilized countries in vainly attempting to make them go in correspondence with the solar system. It is estimated that at least $5,000,000 are annually spent in the United States alone in repairing almost worthless watches, and at least an equal amount in the old world. The mystery which surrounds the profession of watch-making in the community almost equals that of the healing art, and this ignorance is by no means detrimental to manufacturers and importers.

Under the circumstances, it is not strange that in the United States there should have been until lately but a few specific attempts at watch-making. Our ingenuity and mastery in machinery was first applied to supplying the world with clocks. The filling of the world with reliable watches should naturally follow.

The advantageous opening for this branch of industry will be best appreciated by referring to the amount expended in the importation of watches, chiefly from England, and from Switzerland through France. The number of watches imported is not given in the published returns of the Treasury department, but their total value, from 1825 to 1858 inclusive, is $45,820,000, about equally divided between England and Switzerland, while the number of watches supplied by the latter is more than three times as great as the number furnished by the former, owing to the lower price and the less substantial quality of the workmanship.

Our present demand for foreign watches is about $5,000,000 per annum. What a temptation to apply the vaunted superiority of Americans in mechanical ingenuity to their production by machinery.

During the war of 1812 a large number of very excellent watches were manufactured in Worcester county, Massachusetts, by Goddard and others, some of which are still in use. But at the close of the war the manufacture languished, and foreign competition brought it to an end.

The next attempt was made in 1839, at East Hartford, by Henry Pitkin, who commenced making watches with tools of his own manufacture, and continued the business there and in Boston until he had made about one thousand watches, when the business failed from want of capital and encouragement.

The application of machinery to the manufacture of firearms having been successfully made by Eli Whitney, the idea of extending it to the manufacture of watches naturally occurred. An enterprise with this object in view was first started at Roxbury, Mass., in the year 1850, in connection with a large clock-making establishment; but the location was soon found to be wholly unsuited to the prosecution of such delicate work, on account of the light and dusty character of the soil, which in dry weather charged the rooms with dust, to the great injury of the work. To overcome this difficulty, and more fully carry out the project of training a special class of workmen and women, a site was procured in the town of Waltham, Mass., on the banks of Charles River, and a manufactory erected, which covers an area of about half an acre of ground.

The building is two stories [illegible] and surrounds a quadrangular [illegible] one of the most admirable [illegible] organised establishments in [illegible] various fortunes, the [illegible] 1857 the establish[illegible] Appleton [illegible] it upon a [illegible] made watch-making [illegible] institution: thus getting [illegible] enterprise and ingenuity to [illegible] which promises to [illegible] few years the watch trade [illegible] of manufacture in [illegible]

Every part of the watch is made by machinery, each machine doing its peculiar work to a guage or pattern, with an exactness no skill of handicraft can equal. With the exception of the jewels and the pivots that run in them, every watch is in every part exactly like every other watch of the same style. The jewels are first drilled with a diamond, and then opened out with diamond-dust on a soft hair-like iron wire, their perforations having certain microscopic differences. In like manner, the pivots of steel that are to run in these jewels, without wearing out in the least, must be exquisitely polished. By this operation their size is slightly reduced. The jewels and pivots, after being thus finished, are classified by means of a guage, so delicately graduated as to detect a difference of the ten thousandth part of an inch. The jewels are classified by means of the pivots, the jewels and pivots of the same number fitting each other exactly. The sizes of the several pivots and jewels in each watch are carefully recorded under its number, so that if any one of either should fail in any part of the world, by sending the number of the watch to Waltham, the part desired may be readily and cheaply replaced with unerring certainty. All the other parts are made precisely the same size, every dial-plate and case fitting one watch as well as another. The escapements, which in foreign watches have each its own individuality, are uniform in the American watch. No one who examines the machines employed in this establishment, and attends to the minute details of the system, will doubt that the work of the very best European watch-makers must be equalled, and in some respects greatly excelled. In the Waltham watches nothing is left to the eye or touch of the workmen. On every part the machine impresses its own precision.*

With excellent judgment, the founders of this establishment have adopted the simplest form of the lever watch as their staple, designed to supply the place of the millions of low-priced and unreliable foreign watches with which our country is flooded. Adjusted chronometer balances and a most elaborate finish in all respects have been achieved; but it is not the design of the manufacturers to enter into a useless competition with the highest priced watches on the score of external finish, believing that the more valuable qualities of durability, reliability, cheapness, and simple elegance, will be best appreciated, and more useful to the community than the pretentious glitter of finish which too often conceals fatal internal defects in the watch as a time-keeper. By machinery American movements without cases are made at about one-half the cost of imported movements of a similar grade, with the advantage of being uniformly reliable. We hail the introduction of watch-making with peculiar satisfaction, as it promises to remedy a serious evil which has grown out of the unreliability of the great majority of foreign watches. We allude to the vast amount of petty fraud and knavery that are practised and tolerated in connection with these worse than useless fabrics; cheating in the sale of a watch having been considered as almost justifiable. The introduction of the Waltham watches will necessarily put an end to this wide-spread evil. The manufacture of American watches also promises to open a new and appropriate field of remunerative employment for the skill of woman, where she can demonstrate her capacity for the most delicate and exacting mechanical occupations. It marks, moreover, an era in the history of time and time-keepers, and may appropriately be associated with the magnetic telegraph, the sewing-machine, and other kindred successes of mind over matter, which so wonderfully distinguish the present period.—*Knickerbocker.*

* The only mechanical difference between a watch and a clock is, that a watch will go in any position, but a clock only in one. Although these names in silence, with a footstep of a pendulum, are called clocks, they are really watches, differing from the common watch in their size, and the balance being set in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the rest of the watch.

† Watches have been made that would wind themselves up on the wrist without a key; others have been set in bracelets and rings; and a complete full-size watch was exhibited at the World's Fair, in New York in 1853, no larger than a gold dollar. The [illegible] movement [illegible] which is one of the lowest; "I had the honor to present," [illegible] a watch with a watch in it, [illegible] the [illegible] watch [illegible] is only [illegible] and a half in diameter, and [illegible] of a line in height between the plates. To render the thing more curious, the [illegible] of the [illegible] is [illegible] by the small hand of a watch of ordinary size, which is [illegible] to the [illegible] by pulling the [illegible] out from the [illegible] and it goes during [illegible]."

Among the curiosities of watch-making we remember to have seen a watch [illegible] of gold, [illegible] in the [illegible] of a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] dollars; and [illegible] watch, containing [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] thousand dollars; and [illegible] watch, containing [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] thousand dollars; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]